BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) When the Information Training Centre conducted by Government of India at Dimapur will be started;

(b) whether the present Government has not complied with the assurance of the previous United Front Government to extend assistance to the State Instiutte of Journalism, Imphal conducted by the Publicity Department, Government of Manipur; and

(c) the measures taken up by Government for fulfilling that assurance in the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) There is no proposal to start a Information Training Centre by Government at Dimapur.

(b) The previous United Front Government did not give such an assurance.

(c) Does not arise.

Autonomy to Prasar Bharati

97. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether having reissued the Prasar Bharati Ordinance, Government have been rethinking on the extent of autonomy to be granted or providing "teeth to it";

(b) if so, what precise issues have been considered in this regard and what decision, if any, has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Government have only sought to restore the provisions of the original Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 through the promulgation of the Prasar Bharati Amendment Ordinance, 1999.

(b) Does not arise.

News-Item Captioned 'DD is Returning to Sycophancy'

98. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Indian Express dated 20th January, 1999 under the caption "DD is returning to sycophancy"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All programme matters including news telecast by Doordarshan fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous body and the Government do not interfere in such matters. Prasar Bharati have reported that its news bulletins are prepared purely on the consideration of news value of stories and keeping in view its policy guidelines. it has further reported that being national broadcaster, it is the duty of Doordarshan to ensure that sensitive matters particularly those affecting national security or harmonious relations between different communities are covered in a responsible manner keeping in view possible ramifications of their coverages. Whenever the statements of Prime Minister have important news value justifying their inclusion as a top story, it is being done.

Introduction of Direct to Home Telecast

99. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce Direct to Home telecast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, by when a decision is likely to be taken;

(d) whether the issue of DTH would be delinked from the Broadcasting Bill; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor, and benefits to Doordarshan by allowing DTH in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR

NAQVI): (a) No, Sir. No such decision has been taken.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers consisting of the Ministers of Home Affairs, Finance, Communications, Defence and Information & Braodcasting to consider issues connected with Direct-to Home Broadcasting and make recommendations. The Group is likely to commence its deliberations shortly.

आकाशवाणी में नैमित्तिक उदघोषकों और सूत्र धारों को स्थाई करना

100. **श्री राजनाथ सिंह:**
श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या आकाशवाणी के विभिन्न केन्द्रों में अनुबंध के आधार पर कार्य कर रहे ऐसे नैमित्तिक उदघोषकों को स्थाई नौकरियां देने की कोई योजना उनके मंत्रालय के अधीन है, जिन्होंने उदघोषकों और सूत्रधारों के रूप में 300 से अधिक दिनों की सेवा की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार उन उदघोषकों और सूत्रधारों के 5000/-रू प्रतिमाह देने के लिए कोई प्रावधान करेगी, जिन्होंने दिसम्बर 1998 तक 300 से अधिक दिनों की सेवा की है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो यह योजना कब तक लागू किये जाने की संभावना है और नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण है?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार नकवी): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) और (घ) आकाशवाणी केन्द्रों की आवश्यकताओं पर निर्भर रहते हुए किसी भी नैमित्तिक उदघोषक/कम्पेयर को महीने में अधिकतम 6 दिन और वर्ष में 72 दिनों के लिए बुक किया जा सकता है। प्रत्येक नैमित्तिक बुकिंग के लिए शुल्क समय-समय पर निर्धारित किया जाता है। नैमित्तिक कर्मचारी चूंकि अनुबंध वाले कर्मचारी नहीं होते इसलिए उन्हें कोई मासिक समेकित शुल्क नहीं दिया जा सकता है।

Vacant post of Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati

101. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of cheif Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati is still lying vacant; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Selection Committee, constituted under the Prasar Bharati Act, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice-President is already seized of the matter.

Vacant posts of SCs/STs in Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

102. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts of various categories for SCs/STs lying vacant in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its subordinate offices;

(b) the details thereof and since when these are lying vacant; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to fill up these vacancies and the time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Review of Prasar Bharati Act

103. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the Prasar Bharati Act;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the changes proposed to be made in the Prasar Bharati Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) There is no proposal to review the Prasar Bharati Act.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.